

Upcoming changes to Labour Force Survey outputs

Outlines changes to Labour Force Survey outputs during April to August 2026 as the ABS modernises its collection model

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Introduction

The ABS is improving how we collect the Labour Force Survey to ensure the data maintains its high quality, that the survey is easier for people to complete, and that response rates are maintained. The new collection model will update the design of the survey, including the grouping of questions and topics, as well as how and to whom they are asked. It will also have an update to the content, and systems and tools used to collect the data, significantly improving the digital experience for survey participants.

Changes to the Labour Force Survey will be implemented progressively from April 2026. This modernisation will take place over the period of April to August 2026 inclusive, referred to as the 'transition period'. Undertaking the transition progressively will allow us to monitor and manage any statistical impact as survey rotation groups gradually transition onto the new infrastructure.

Key questions asked in the Labour Force Survey that are used to calculate headline estimates will not be changed. Small improvements will be made to the supporting information that provides guidance to respondents about how to correctly answer the survey questions. During the transition period, headline estimates such as employment, unemployment and the unemployment rate will continue to be produced monthly. Other outputs however will be impacted.

This article provides detail about the changes to Labour Force Survey outputs during the transition period. Table shells reflecting the spreadsheets that will be produced during the transition period are provided under Data Downloads section.

A subsequent article that will be published in mid-2026 will provide more detail about outputs following the end of the transition period (i.e. from the September 2026 reference period onwards).

More information on the modernisation of the Labour Force Survey is provided in [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](#).

The ABS will also be making improvements to the suite of underemployed and underutilisation statistics produced

from the Labour Force Survey, Please see the [Underemployment and underutilisation article \(/articles/underemployment-and-underutilisation-introducing-u-series\)](#) for more information.

Labour Force Survey release dates during transition

The ABS has made the decision to delay the release of the headline Labour Force, Australia publication for the April to August 2026 reference periods by a week compared to usual timeframes. This small delay is to allow additional time for quality assurance checks on the data.

The ABS has also decided to consolidate the Labour Force Survey publication into a single release from April 2026 data onwards. This consolidated release will combine most information previously included in Labour Force, Australia (Headline release) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed releases, under the Labour Force, Australia (Headline) publication title.

The release dates for the consolidated Labour Force, Australia release during the transition will be as follows:

- Labour Force, Australia, April – Released 21 May 2026
- Labour Force, Australia, May – Released 25 June 2026
- Labour Force, Australia, June – Released 23 July 2026
- Labour Force, Australia, July – Released 20 August 2026
- Labour Force, Australia, August – Released 24 September 2026.

Overview of Labour Force Survey outputs during transition

As part of [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](#), a number of mostly minor changes to the Labour Force Survey questionnaire were made to:

- Improve outdated wording, coding, and conceptual issues for specific items
- Optimise the survey for online response
- Apply changes to the overall model of the survey, whereby some topics will be collected monthly instead of quarterly, and other topics will now be asked in the new Labour Supplementary Survey instead of the core survey.

As a result of these improvements some spreadsheets will not be able to be produced during the transition, and in some cases will be retired permanently, for the following reasons:

- Content is impacted by method, concept or coding changes e.g. the retrenchment module will not be published during the transition.
- Content will move to being collected in the new Labour Supplementary Survey e.g. core educational items previously collected in the Survey of Education and Work.
- Lower utility, duplication across tables or very detailed content that will be provided through alternative sources e.g. the expanded analytical series for underutilisation.

A full list of impacted spreadsheets is provided in the sections below.

As a result of the factors above, all labour force topics in longitudinal microdata will not be updated for the April to August 2026 reference periods, including a two-quarter gap in the provision of the Labour Force Survey TableBuilder product (see Changes to other Labour Force products below). The Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linkages will continue to be available, however will only include items being published during the transition period.

Table name changes

Labour Force Survey modernisation provides an opportunity to re-name the labour force tables using more understandable and streamlined numbering.

- The main labour force status tables for Australia, by state/territory, and by age and sex, as well as headline hours worked and status in employment, are numbered from 001 to 019.
- Pivot tables start with three letters e.g. HRS for the pivot tables with data for employed persons by hours worked in all jobs.

The concordance for the new table names is available in the Data Downloads section.

List of Labour Force, Australia spreadsheets to be published during transition

The following tables will be produced during the transition period (table shells and concordance to existing tables are provided under Data Downloads section):

Tables to be published during transition



Topic	Tables
Labour force status	Table 001. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 002. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 003. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 004. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 005. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 006. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 007. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 008. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original
	Table 009. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original
	Table 010. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 011. Labour force status by Age and Sex - Original
	Table 012. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 013. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table 014. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)
	Table 015. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex
	Table 016. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	LMS1. Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory (pivot table)
	LMS1. Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory, Historical (pivot table)
	LMS2. Labour force status by Age, Greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and Sex (pivot table)
	LMS3. Labour force status by Age (detailed), Greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and Sex (pivot table)
	LMS4. Labour force status by Age, Major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and Sex (pivot table)
	LMS5. Labour force status by Elapsed years since arrival, Major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), Sex, State and Territory (pivot table)
Modelled labour market regions (SA4)	MLF1. Modelled estimates of Labour force status by SA4 (ASGS), Age and Sex (pivot table)

Topic	Tables
Hours worked	Table 017. Hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted
	Table 018. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs and Sex
	HRS1. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs, State and Territory (pivot table)
	HRS2. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs, Age and Sex (pivot table)
Status in employment	Table 019. Status in employment of main job and Sex SEM1. Status in employment of main job by Hours worked in all jobs, Sex, and State (pivot table)
Underemployment and underutilisation	Table X28. Underutilised persons by State and Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
	Table X29. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Detail of changes to Labour Force Survey outputs

Changes to Labour Force, Australia (Headline release) spreadsheets

The monthly Labour Force, Australia release will continue to provide essential labour force status output items from the Labour Force Survey. However, some tables previously included in the Headline release will be retired permanently from the consolidated Labour Force, Australia release. These are:

- Table 10a - Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 11a - Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 12a - Labour force status by Sex, Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 19a - Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 21 - Quarterly hours worked in all jobs by Market and Non-market sector. Users should note that the Labour Account is the recommended source for sector-related outputs.
- Table 23a - Underutilised persons by Territory and Sex - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 24 - Underutilised persons by Age and Sex (expanded analytical series)
- Table 25 - Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex (expanded analytical series).

Changes to Labour Force, Australia, Detailed spreadsheets

The ABS will release a cut back set of detailed tables - formerly released in the Labour Force, Australia, Detailed publication - in the consolidated Labour Force, Australia publication during the transition.

The following detailed tables (with name changes applied) will still be released in the consolidated Labour Force, Australia:

Topic	Detailed tables(a)
Labour force status	Table 01. Labour force status by age, social marital status and sex LM1 – Labour force status by age, greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS), marital status and sex, February 1978 onwards (pivot table) LM4 - Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), sex, state and territory, July 1996 onwards (pivot table) LM5 - Labour force status by age, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and sex, July 1996 onwards (pivot table) LM9 - Labour force status by age (detailed), greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and sex, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
Hours worked	Table 09. Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs and sex EM1a - Employed persons by age, hours actually worked in all jobs and sex, January 1991 onwards (pivot table) EM1b - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
Status in employment	Table 08. Employed persons by Status in employment of main job and Sex EM6a - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs, sex, status in employment of main job, and state, January 1991 (pivot table)
Modelled labour market regions (SA4)	MRM2 - Modelled estimates of labour force status, by SA4 (ASGS), Age and Sex (Pivot Table)

(a) The tables listed above are using the current titles, noting these will be changed from April onwards.

Spreadsheets on hold during the transition



Labour Force tables that are impacted by changes arising from the modernisation process (i.e. questionnaire changes or changes in coding or concepts) will not be produced during the transition period. After the transition period, these tables will be published in the Labour Force, Australia publication. These tables are:

Topic	Detailed tables (a)
Industry and occupation	Table 04. Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) - Trend, Seasonally adjusted, and Original
	Table 05. Employed persons by State, Territory and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC)
	Table 07. Employed persons by Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Sex
	Table 11. Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) and Hours actually worked in all jobs
	Table 12. Employed persons by Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Hours actually worked in all jobs
	EQ03 - Employed persons by Greater Capital City and Rest of State (ASGS), Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) and Sex, November 1984 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ07b - Employed persons by Occupation major group (ANZSCO) and Status in employment of main job, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ09 - Employed persons by Industry division (ANZSIC) and Occupation major group (ANZSCO) of main job and Sex, August 1986 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ12 - Employed persons by Age and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), November 1984 onwards (Pivot Table)
Hours worked	EQ13 - Employed persons by Age and Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO), August 1986 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EM2a - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs and sex, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
	EM2b - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
Unemployment	Table 14b. Unemployed persons by duration of job search and sex - trend, seasonally adjusted and original
	UM2 - Unemployed persons by duration of job search, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
	UM3 - Unemployed persons by age and duration of job search, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
Underemployment and underutilisation	Table 19. Underemployed persons by Industry division (ANZSIC) or Occupation major group (ANZSCO) of main job and Sex
	Table 23a. Volume measures of underutilisation by State, Territory and Sex
	Table 23b. Volume measures of underutilisation by Age and Sex
Status in employment	EQ04 - Employed persons by Hours actually worked in all jobs, Sex and Status in employment of main job, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ05 - Employed persons by Industry division (ANZSIC) and Status in employment of main job, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table)
Retrenchment	Table 29a. Retrenchment by Labour force status, State and Territory
	Table 29b. Retrenchment by Labour force status and by Age and Sex
Not in the labour force	NM1 - Persons not in the labour force (NILF) by age, reason not in the labour force and sex, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
	NM2 - Persons not in the labour force (NILF) by reason not in the labour force, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)

(a) The tables listed above are using the current titles, noting these will be changed from August onwards.

The ABS intends to resume producing Labour Force Survey occupation data, including backcasted estimates, coded to Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA) starting from the September 2026 reference period Labour Force Survey release.

Spreadsheets no longer published from April 2026



The below detailed tables will no longer be published from April 2026 onwards. Following the transition period, most of these topics will be made available through TableBuilder and Longitudinal Labour Force products. These tables are:

Topic	Detailed tables
Labour force status	Table 02. Labour force status by state, territory, greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and sex
	Table 03. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time) and sex and by state, territory
	LM3 - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time), sex and year left school, April 1986 onwards (pivot table)
	LM3a - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time), highest year of school completed (ASCED) and sex, August 2015 onwards (pivot table)
	Table 25b. Labour Force status for 15-29 year olds by Age, Educational attendance (detailed) and Sex
Industry and Occupation	Table 06. Employed persons by Industry sub-division of main job (ANZSIC) and Sex
	EQ06 - Employed persons by Industry group of main job (ANZSIC), Sex, State and Territory, November 1984 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ07a - Employed persons by Age, Occupation sub-major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Sex, August 1986 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ08 - Employed persons by Occupation unit group of main job (ANZSCO), Sex, State and Territory, August 1986 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ10 - Employed persons by Hours usually worked in all jobs and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), May 2001 onwards (Pivot Table)
	EQ11 - Employed persons by Hours actually worked and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), May 2001 onwards (Pivot Table)
Hours worked	EQ14 - Employed persons by Hours usually worked and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), August 2014 onwards (Pivot Table)
	Table 10. Employed persons by hours usually worked in all jobs and sex
	EM3a - Employed persons by age, hours usually worked in all jobs and sex, April 2001 onwards (pivot table)
	EM3b - Employed persons by hours usually worked in all jobs, state and territory, April 2001 onwards (pivot table)
	EM4a - Employed persons by age, hours actually worked in main job and sex, April 2001 onwards (pivot table)
	EM4b - Employed persons by hours actually worked in main job, state and territory, April 2001 onwards (pivot table)
	EM5a - Employed persons by age, hours usually worked in main job and sex, July 2014 onwards (pivot table)
Unemployment	EM5b - Employed persons by hours usually worked in main job, state and territory, July 2014 onwards (pivot table)
	Table 14a. Unemployed persons by duration of job search and sex
	Table 14c. Median duration of job search by state, territory and duration of job search
	Table 14d. Median duration of job search by age and duration of job search
	Table 14e. Median duration of job search by relationship in household and duration of job search
	Table 20a. Unemployed persons who looked for full-time and part-time work by age
	Table 20b. Unemployed persons who looked for full-time and part-time work by sex

Topic	Detailed tables
	Table 20c. Unemployed persons who looked for full-time and part-time work by state and territory
Status in employment	EM6 - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs, sex and status in employment of main job, January 1991 onwards (pivot table) Table 13. Employed persons by Status in employment of main job and Hours actually worked in all jobs
Modelled Labour Market Regions (SA4)	MRM1 - Modelled estimates of labour force status, by SA4 (ASGS)
Relationship in household	FM1 - Labour force status by relationship in household, sex, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table) FM2 - Labour force status by age and relationship in household, January 1991 onwards (pivot table) FM3 - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs and relationship in household, January 1991 onwards (pivot table) FM4 - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and relationship in household, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)
Current and expected job duration	EQ02 - Employed persons by Number of months with current employer or in own business, Sex, State and Territory, May 2001 onwards (Pivot Table)

Content moving from the Labour Force Survey to the new Labour Supplementary Survey



Three topics will no longer be collected through the core Labour Force content and will instead be collected in the new Labour Supplementary Survey. These statistics will be compiled and published on an annual (calendar year) basis, starting with 2026 based on data collected from August to December 2026. Annual outputs from the Labour Supplementary Survey are expected to be published in April or May 2027.

Relevant detailed tables that will no longer be produced in the Labour Force, Australia release are:

Topic	Detailed tables
Industry, Occupation of last job	UQ2a - Unemployed persons by Industry division of last job (ANZSIC), Reason left or lost last job and Sex, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table) UQ2b - Unemployed persons by Industry division of last job (ANZSIC), State and Territory, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table) UQ3a - Unemployed persons by Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO), Reason left or lost last job and Sex, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table) UQ3b - Unemployed persons by Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO), State and Territory, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table)
Education (25 years and over)	Table 24a. Labour Force status by State, Territory, and Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED) Table 24b. Labour Force status for 20-64 year olds by Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED) and Sex Table 25a. Labour Force status by State, Territory and Educational attendance (detailed) LQ1 - Labour Force status by Age, Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED) and Sex, August 2015 onwards (Pivot Table) LQ2 - Labour Force status by Age, Educational attendance (detailed) and Sex, August 2015 onwards (Pivot Table)
Current and expected job duration	Table 17. Employed persons by Expectations of future employment and Number of months with current employer or in own business

Changes to other Labour Force products



The Longitudinal Labour Force Survey microdata will not be updated during the transition period and will be reinstated on a monthly basis after the transition period (from the September 2026 reference period release).

The Labour Force Survey TableBuilder will not be released during the transition period and will be reinstated on a monthly basis from the September 2026 reference period release.

Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linkages will only include items being published during the transition. Full monthly updates will resume from the September 2026 reference period release. See Data Downloads for an indicative Data Item List during the transition.

The Labour Force Status of Families publication will not be produced in 2026 (for June 2026 data) and will resume publication in 2027.

Table shells and concordance

Transition period

[Download all \(4.61 MB\)](#)

Table 001. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[238.34 KB]

Table 002. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[185.31 KB]

Table 003. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[185.33 KB]

Table 004. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[185.28 KB]

Table 005. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[185.32 KB]

Table 006. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[185.31 KB]

Table 007. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[185.3 KB]

Table 008. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[157.55 KB]

Table 009. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original

[Download XLSX](#)
[157.51 KB]

Table 010. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[1.18 MB]

Table 011. Labour force status by age and sex - Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[1.23 MB]

Table 012. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[204.07 KB]

Table 013. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[238.26 KB]

Table 014. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

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[634.36 KB]

Table 015. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex

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[248.65 KB]

Table 016. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[238.22 KB]

LMS1. Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory (pivot table)

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[154.29 KB]

LMS2. Labour force status by Age, Greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and Sex (pivot table)

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[1.01 MB]

LMS3. Labour force status by Age (detailed), Greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and Sex (pivot table)

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[601.53 KB]

LMS4. Labour force status by Age, Major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and Sex (pivot table)

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[806.02 KB]

LMS5. Labour force status by Elapsed years since arrival, Major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), Sex, State and Territory (pivot table)

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[1.06 MB]

MLF1. Modelled estimates of labour force status by SA4 (ASGS), Age and Sex (pivot Table)

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[394.86 KB]

Table 017. Hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

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[102.95 KB]

Table 018. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs and Sex

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[202.75 KB]

HRS1. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs, State and territory (pivot table)

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[129.25 KB]

HRS2. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs, Age and Sex (pivot table)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[138.46 KB]

Table 019. Status in employment of main job and Sex

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[129.36 KB]

SEM1. Status in employment of main job by Hours worked in all jobs, Sex, and State (pivot table)

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[3.19 MB]

Table X28. Underutilised persons by State and Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[1.65 MB]

Table X29. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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Labour Force Australia – Table name concordance (transition period)

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[12.85 KB]

Labour Force Survey PLIDA Module Data Item List during transition

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